REMARKS

Claims 22-42 are pending, with claims 22, 29 and 36 being independent. Claims 1-21 were cancelled by a previous amendment.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 22-28 and 36-42 and the indication that claims 31-33 contain allowable subject matter.

Applicants' responses to specific rejections are presented below following excerpted text of the Office action, which is presented in indented, bold, single-spaced, 9 point font.

> **Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103**
> **2. Claims 29,30,34, and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Sczcepanek et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,690,668 hereinafter "Sczcepanek") in view of Dewberry et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,507,425) .**
>
> **3. Referring to claim 29, Sczcepanek teaches a network device (see item 20 in figure 4a), having default values that are flexibly configurable, comprising:**
> > **a microprocessor interface (see item 56 in figure 4a);**
> > **a memory interface (see item 54 in figure 4a); and**
> > **a register file (see item 45 in figure 4a) containing the**
> **default values for the network device (see lines 23-27 of column 7) ;**
> > **wherein the memory interface is configured to receive configuration data, wherein the network device is configured such that the corresponding values are mapped to corresponding default values of the register file, and wherein the network device is configurable to set default values based on data received through either the microprocessor interface and the memory interface (see paragraph bridging paragraphs 7 and 8).**
> > **Sczcepanek fails to teach the configuration data being in the form of configuration instruction that are interpreted by the network device.**
> > **Dewberry teaches, a network device that receives and interprets configuration instruction from a memory (see lines 37-42 of column 2).**
> > **It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Sczcepanek with the above teachings of Dewberry such that configuration instructions are received and interpreted and the corresponding data is mapped to the default register values to allow more programmer control of the network device configuration.**

Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the rejection. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claim 29 because Sczcepanek and Dewberry, either alone or in combination, fail to describe or render obvious a network device having default values that are flexibly configurable that includes a register file containing the

default values for the network device, where the network device is configured to interpret the received configuration instructions such that the corresponding values are mapped to corresponding default values of the register file.

The Office Action relies upon Sczcepanek at col. 7, lines 23-27 to teach that the register file contains default values for the network device. Instead, Sczcepanek merely describes that a "local packet switching memory 45 also includes a portion dedicated to memory-mapped registers that are addressable by various interfaces, as will be noted below, primarily for storing control and configuration information for switch 20." See Sczcepanek, col. 7, lines 23-27. There is no mention that the memory-mapped registers in Sczcepanek contain default values for the switch, as recited in claim 29. There is no description or suggestion in Sczcepanek that the control and configuration information stored in the memory-mapped registers are default values. Thus, Sczcepanek does not describe or suggest a register file that contains default values for the network device, as alleged in the Office Action.

Dewberry also does not describe or suggest a register file that contains default values for the network device and is not relied upon by the Office Action for this feature.

Furthermore, since the memory-mapped registers in Sczcepanek do not contain default values, then corresponding values from the configuration instructions cannot be mapped to corresponding default values of the memory-mapped registers. Claim 29 recites that the network device is configured to interpret the received configuration instructions such that the corresponding values are mapped to corresponding default values of the register file. If neither of the relied-upon references describe or suggest a register file containing default values, then this feature cannot be rendered obvious.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection of independent claim 29 and its dependent claims 30, 34 and 35.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' attorney (202-470-6457) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

Enclosed are the fees for a one (1) month extension of time. If necessary, please charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3521, referencing Attorney Docket No. 0063-068002/BU2047.1C.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date   April 23, 2009   Joseph F. Key
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